



CAREER MAPPING

After watching the *JA It's My Future* Session 4 volunteer video, reflect on the lesson and review the concepts and vocabulary. Complete the following activity. You may also be assigned the writing assignment or choose to practice your writing skills on your own.

Think About It:

- What sports, hobbies, clubs, and activities do you enjoy?
- What do you like to do in your free time?
- What volunteer work have you done?
- What subject do you know a lot about or would like to learn a lot about?
- What awards or honors have you received? Have you earned any certifications, licenses, or permits?
- What jobs have you held or what work have you done for family, friends, or neighbors?

Try It:

Create a Career Map using your past and current skills and accomplishments.

- Review the skills, interests, and abilities from the occupation you chose previously. If you do not remember, choose a career that interests you.
- Determine the skills needed for that occupation. You may need to visit the U.S. Department of Labor site, O*NET, at <https://www.onetonline.org/> to investigate skills.
- Consider the Think About It questions above. What knowledge, experience, or education do you have that could be stepping stones toward the career you have selected?
- On sticky notes or small sheet of paper, write down any events, classes, or experiences you have had that might help you toward that career. For example, if you chose Park Naturalist, then being a scout or participating in Earth Day events might help you learn skills for that occupation.
- Think of your personal traits, interests, and skills. Which fit that occupation? Write those down on sticky notes, too.
- Write the name of the career that interests you at the top of a large sheet of paper, or write it on a card and lay the card on a clean surface. Arrange the sticky notes as stepping stones leading up to the career. Remember that the path to any career is not always a straight line.
- What other experiences or classes would be good stepping stones to the career? Write them down on a different color sticky note, or with a different color pen. You may need to do some research to discover what classes and experiences would help you develop your career path.
- Share your career map with a teacher, friend, or family member.



Practice Your Writing Skills:

Write a letter to your future self. Think of the things you know and are interested in now. Tell your future self about your plans for the future, hopes, dreams, and values. Use the format for a friendly letter, researching online if you need a template. Put the letter away in a safe place. You may wish to visit it in the future and see the progress you have made toward your ideal career or whether your goals have changed.